

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention, the ~~top~~upper part of the mast passes vertically through the envelope to give the latter a static rigidity at the level of the diametrically opposed bottom pole and top pole, the mast being hollow and comprising at least one air outlet orifice in its ~~top~~upper part to perform inflation of the envelope by the electro-pneumatic means.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the means for detecting the wind speed comprise an anemometer arranged at the top pole of the balloon. The mechanical static rigidity is advantageously completed by the self-regulated dynamic rigidity of the envelope due to modulation of the internal inflation pressure according to the wind speed. The twofold effect of static and dynamic rigidity of the envelope gives the balloon a very good wind resistance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- the electric lamp is securedly affixed to the ~~top~~upper part of the mast inside the envelope;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- the ~~top~~upper part of the mast comprises a plurality of rungs constituting an internal ladder between the two poles;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~top~~upper part 14A of the mast 14 situated inside the envelope 12 between the two poles 26, 18 is equipped with at least one electric lamp 36 (four in the example of figure 1 or 5) preferably situated in the centre of the envelope 12. Rungs 38 are staggered along the ~~top~~upper part 14A of the mast 14 to form an internal ladder between the two poles 26, 18.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Inflation of the envelope 12 is performed via at least one outlet orifice 46 provided in the ~~top~~upper part 14A of the mast 14, preferably above the lamps 36.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When installation of the balloon 10 is performed, the zip fasteners 22A, 22B of the envelope 12 are opened for the ~~top~~upper part 14A of the mast 14 to pass through.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.